

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 243

By Coley

A RESOLUTION recognizing Judy Peiser, co-founder and Executive Producer of the Center for Southern Folklore.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to specially recognize those Tennesseans who have committed themselves to preserving aspects of Southern culture while striving to educate and inform the masses of the importance of the South's cultural history; and

WHEREAS, Judy Peiser, co-founder and Executive Producer of the Center for Southern Folklore in Memphis, is one such intrepid individual who has, for nearly forty years, championed the importance of understanding and documenting the cultural history of the South; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Peiser, a native of Memphis, co-founded the Center for Southern Folklore in 1972 with Bill Ferris and currently serves as its Executive Producer. Under her leadership the Center has developed award-winning media programs, events, publications, and cultural festivities that have reached audiences throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, through its Folklore Store, Folklore Hall, exhibits, and cultural excursions, the Center has provided the opportunity for thousands of students, tourists, and visitors to learn about the culture and music of the South; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its service as an cultural archive, the Center also serves as the backbone for the Memphis Music and Heritage Festival, which has been held in downtown Memphis for the past twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, Judy Peiser has been the driving force behind the Center's success, and it is her passion that has made the Center for Southern Folklore such an integral part of the Southern cultural landscape; and

WHEREAS, a noted documentarian and lecturer, Ms. Peiser has produced renowned educational conferences and exhibits on a number of subjects, but it is her passion and enthusiasm that enables so many people to connect with life in the South; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Peiser holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana and a master's degree in communications from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, she is an award-winning filmmaker whose involvement with such projects as *All Day and Night: Memories from Beale Street Musicians* has received international acclaim, and she has presented hundreds of film screenings at colleges, museums, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Kennedy Center, and on numerous television programs; and

WHEREAS, Judy Peiser has also contributed to the fine arts through her patronage of the stage; she has produced several travelling music shows, including a musical entitled *Beale Street Saturday Night*; and

WHEREAS, in all she does on behalf of the Center for Southern Folklore, Ms. Peiser strives to stay true to the Center's motto: "To Preserve, Defend, and Promote the music, culture, arts, and rhythms of the South"; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, she was recognized by *Esquire* magazine as an individual who has changed America and by *Southern Living* magazine for having made a difference in the South, received the first Initiative Award given by the Women of Achievement, garnered the recognition of the Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission, was featured in the *Memphis Business Journal Quarterly*, and was given the del Soul E Rhythm and Blues Award by the Sweet Soul Music Festival in Poretta, Italy; and

WHEREAS, throughout her entire career, Judy Peiser has committed herself with unwavering dedication and attention to the preservation of our cultural heartbeat through education and through documentaries, and it is wholly fitting that she be formally recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Judy Peiser for her many

contributions to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the South and those who in her bosom dwell, applaud her tireless work with the Center for Southern Folklore, and extend our best wishes for her every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.